Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 4, lines 22 and 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 1 is a block diagram illustrating ~~and~~ an encoding system for a RAID system;

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 6 to 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring now to the drawings, and more particularly to Figure 1, there is shown a block diagram illustrating ~~and~~ an encoding system for a RAID system in which the present invention may be implemented. Data stored in main memory 10, such as volatile random access memory (RAM), of a computer system is read to an auxiliary storage RAID system 12 for non-volatile storage. At the same time, the data is read to an encoder 14 for encoding the erasure correcting codes. The encoder can be implemented by suitable code in a microprocessor of the computer system. These erasure correcting codes are also stored in the RAID system 12. In the example illustrated, the RAID array comprises three data disks, 12_1 to 12_3, across which the data is striped, and three disks 12_4 to 12_6, which store the checking part of the erasure correcting code.

Please replace the equation on page 8, line 2, with the following rewritten equation:

$$\begin{bmatrix} w_{0,0} \\ w_{0,1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} w_{4,0} \\ w_{4,1} \\ w_{1,0} \\ w_{1,1} \\ w_{2,0} \\ w_{2,1} \end{bmatrix}$$